

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim [[3]] Z, wherein the common substrate is an insulating alumina substrate.
2. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 7, wherein the single supply source is a battery having multiple voltage taps.
3. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim [[2]] Z, wherein ~~the battery includes a common substrate on which a plurality of battery regions are disposed, each battery region providing a supply voltage, the supply voltage of at least one battery region at a rated voltage level different from another battery region of the plurality of battery regions~~ one of the source regions is structured as a source region having a substantially higher capacity than the other source regions.
4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim [[3]] Z, wherein the common substrate is a rigid ceramic platform substrate.
5. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim [[3]] Z, wherein the common substrate is a flexible platform in a folded configuration.
6. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim [[3]] Z, wherein the common substrate is a flexible platform in a rolled configuration such that the flexible platform is rolled with respect to itself.
7. (Currently Amended) A hearing aid comprising:
a plurality of electronic devices, each electronic device configured to operate under a different supply voltage;
a single supply source having multiple voltage taps to provide the different supply

voltages without up-converting a voltage level or down-converting a voltage level, the single supply source having a common substrate on which a plurality of source regions are disposed, each source region to provide a supply voltage, the supply voltage of at least one source region at a rated voltage level different from another source region of the plurality of source regions;

a management unit having circuitry to monitor the voltage level of each source region;

and

a housing containing the plurality of electronic devices, the management unit, and the single supply source;~~the housing structured to mount in or about an ear of a person.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim 7, wherein ~~the hearing aid further includes a battery management unit having circuitry to monitor the voltage level of each battery region~~ each source region substantially is disposed on and contacting a common surface of the common substrate.

9. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim [[8]] 7, wherein ~~the battery management unit includes circuitry to output an audible notice when the voltage level of a battery source region reaches a minimum operational level.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim 7, wherein ~~the battery~~ single supply source includes three ~~battery source~~ regions on ~~[[a]]~~ the common substrate.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The hearing aid of claim 7, A hearing aid comprising:~~
a plurality of electronic devices, each electronic device configured to operate under a different supply voltage;

a battery having multiple voltage taps to provide the different supply voltages without up-converting a voltage level or down-converting a voltage level, the battery having a common substrate on which a plurality of source regions are disposed, each source region to provide a supply voltage, the supply voltage of at least one source region at a rated voltage level different from another source region of the plurality of battery regions, wherein the battery includes a 1.3V tap, a 2.6V tap, and a 3.8V tap.

12. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim 7, wherein the hearing aid further includes a ~~[[battery]]~~ recharge control to control charging the source regions.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The hearing aid of claim 12;~~ A hearing aid comprising:
a plurality of electronic devices, each electronic device configured to operate under a
different supply voltage;
a battery having multiple voltage taps to provide the different supply voltages without up-
converting a voltage level or down-converting a voltage level, wherein the battery includes a
common substrate on which a plurality of battery regions are disposed, each battery region to
provide a supply voltage, the supply voltage of at least one battery region at a rated voltage level
different from another battery region of the plurality of battery regions; and
a battery recharge control, wherein the battery recharge control includes a switching circuit to independently couple a voltage tap to a recharge circuit.

14. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 12, wherein the battery recharge control includes a number of voltage regulators to limit the voltage recharge to a voltage at or below a selected recharge voltage level.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The hearing aid of claim 7, wherein the hearing aid includes A~~ A
hearing aid comprising:
a plurality of electronic devices, each electronic device configured to operate under a
different supply voltage;
a battery having multiple voltage taps to provide the different supply voltages without up-
converting a voltage level or down-converting a voltage level, wherein the battery includes a
common substrate on which a plurality of battery regions are disposed, each battery region to
provide a supply voltage, the supply voltage of at least one battery region at a rated voltage level
different from another battery region of the plurality of battery regions; and
a switching network to selectively switch an electronic device of the plurality of electronic devices to any voltage tap of the multiple voltage taps.

16. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim 7, wherein the hearing aid includes:
a microphone;
a signal processor; and
an amplifier, wherein each of the microphone, the signal processor, and the amplifier are powered by a different voltage tap of the ~~battery~~ single supply source.

17. (Currently Amended) The hearing aid of claim 7, wherein the hearing aid further includes one or more regulators, each regulator associated with a different voltage tap of the ~~battery~~ single supply source.

18. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 7, wherein the hearing aid further includes a wireless link that operates with a supply voltage greater than 1.3V.

19. (Currently Amended) a hearing aid comprising:
a plurality of electronic devices, each electronic device configured to operate under a different supply voltage;
a battery to provide the different supply voltages without up-converting a voltage level or down-converting a voltage level; ~~and~~
~~a housing containing the plurality of electronic device and the single supply source, the housing structured to mount in or about an ear of a person, wherein the battery includes:~~
a substrate;
a plurality of battery regions disposed on the substrate, each battery region to provide a different supply voltage;
a plurality of buffer regions, one or more buffer regions separating each battery region; and
a plurality of voltage taps, wherein each battery region has a voltage tap; and
a battery management unit having circuitry to monitor the voltage level of each battery region; and
a housing containing the plurality of electronic devices, the battery, and the battery management unit.

20. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 19, wherein the substrate is a rigid platform.
21. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 19, wherein the substrate is a flexible platform such that the battery has a folded configuration.
22. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 19, wherein the substrate is a flexible platform such that the battery has a rolled configuration.
23. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 19, wherein the number of battery regions is three.
24. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 19, wherein the battery includes a 1.3V supply voltage, a 2.6V supply voltage, and a 3.8V supply voltage.
25. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 19, further including a reference contact common to each battery region.
26. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 19, further including a number of reference contacts, each reference contact coupled to a different battery region.
27. (Previously Presented) The hearing aid of claim 19, wherein one or more of the battery regions are rechargeable.
28. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a hearing aid comprising:
mounting a number of electronic devices into a housing of a hearing aid, ~~the housing structured to mount in or about an ear of a person~~, each electronic device configured to operate under a different supply voltage; and
providing the hearing aid with a single supply source, in the housing, to provide the different supply voltages without up-converting a voltage level or down-converting a voltage

level, wherein the single supply source includes a common substrate on which a plurality of source regions are disposed, each source region to providing a supply voltage, the supply voltage of at least one source region at a rated voltage level different from another source region of the plurality of source regions; and

coupling, in the housing, a management unit to the single supply source, the management unit having circuitry to monitor the voltage level of each source region.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein providing the hearing aid with a single supply source includes providing the hearing aid with a battery having multiple voltage taps such that the battery has a plurality of battery regions, each battery region configured as a different one of the source regions on the common substrate.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein providing the hearing aid with a battery having multiple voltage taps includes providing the battery having a common substrate on which a plurality of battery regions are disposed, each battery region providing a supply voltage, the supply voltage of at least one battery region at a rated voltage level different from another battery region of the plurality of battery regions with one of the battery regions as a source region having a substantially higher capacity than the other battery regions.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[30]] 29, wherein providing [[a]] the battery having a common substrate includes providing the battery with the common substrate formed as a rigid platform.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[30]] 29, wherein providing [[a]] the battery having a common substrate includes providing the battery with the common substrate formed as a flexible platform in a folded configuration.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[30]] 29, wherein providing [[a]] the battery having a common substrate includes providing the battery with the common substrate formed as a flexible platform in a rolled configuration such that the flexible platform is rolled with respect

to itself.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the method further includes providing a wireless link in the hearing aid that operates with a supply voltage greater than 1.3V.

35. (New) The of claim 7, wherein the housing is structured to mount in or about an ear of a person.

36. (New) The of claim 19, wherein the housing is structured to mount in or about an ear of a person.

37. (New) The of claim 28, wherein the method includes mounting the number of electronic devices and the single supply source into the housing structured to mount in or about an ear of a person.

38. (New) The of claim 11, wherein the hearing aid includes a housing in which the electronic devices and the battery are disposed, the housing structured to mount in or about an ear of a person.

39. (New) The of claim 13, wherein the hearing aid includes a housing in which the electronic devices, the battery, and the battery recharge control are disposed, the housing structured to mount in or about an ear of a person.

40. (New) The of claim 15, wherein the hearing aid includes a housing in which the electronic devices, the battery, and the switching network are disposed, the housing structured to mount in or about an ear of a person.